

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 TRSE-00 /094 W
-----039476 150220Z /72

R 141336Z DEC 77 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2878
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS CAIRO 21539

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EG
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST VISIT: PEACE PROGRESS

SUMMARY: SECRETARY'S VISIT RELEGATED SECOND PLACE BY
OPENING CAIRO CONFERENCE. SADAT MEETS GAZA REPRESENTATIVES WHO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR HIS PEACE INITIATIVES.
PM SALIM CONTINUES ATTACKS ON SOVIETS. SYRIAN PLOT TO
ATTACK EGYPTIAN OFFICES AND PERSONNEL IN BEIRUT. END
SUMMARY.
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1. SECRETARY. CAIRO CONFERENCE RELEGATED SECRETARY'S
VISIT TO SECOND PLACE, ALTHOUGH TRIP STILL REPORTED
PROMINENTLY FRONT PAGES DEC 14. ALL PAPERS HIGHLIGHT
SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL IN DAMASCUS, AND HIS STATEMENTS
THERE AND IN BEIRUT. PRESS NOTED SECRETARY'S ASSERTION,
THAT MIDDLE EAST LEADERS SEEK FINAL AND JUST SETTLEMENT.

2. BEGIN. PAPERS REPORT, WITHOUT COMMENT, THAT PM BEGIN WILL ARRIVE IN NEW YORK DEC 14 TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT CARTER.

3. PALESTINIANS. SADAT, DEC 13, MET 150-MAN DELEGATION FROM GAZA, HEADED BY SHEIKH AL-KHANDAR. MEETING WAS REPORTED EXTENSIVELY ON EGYPTIAN TV AND IN PRESS. SADAT EMPHASIZED EGYPT'S DESIRE FOR PEACE BASED ON JUSTICE. NOTED THAT HE HAD CALLED FOR JERUSALEM BECOMING AGAIN AN ARAB CITY AND FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. PRESIDENT DECLARED THAT, IF ARAB OBJECTIVES CAN BE ACHIEVED PEACEFULLY, IT "NOT WISE TO WAGE WAR... WAR IS NOT AN END IN ITSELF." SADAT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT OTHER ARABS WILL KEEP HANDS OFF PLO TO ENABLE ORGANIZATION SHOULD ITS RESPONSIBILITIES INSTEAD OF BECOMING INVOLVED IN "PERSONAL CONFLICTS, FARCE AND CHILDISH BATTLES." SADAT CONTEMPTUOUSLY DISMISSED REJECTIONISTS, ASKING WHICH OF THEM TOOK PART IN OCTOBER WAR.

4. RESPONSE. RESPONDING, SHEIKH AL-KHANDAR DESCRIBED PRESIDENT AS "HERO OF WAR AND PEACE." SPEAKING ON BEHALF ARABS OF GAZA AND WEST BANK, "WHO NEVER LEFT THEIR LANDS SINCE 1948," SHEIKH EXPRESSED PLEASURE OVER SADAT'S "COURAGEOUS INITIATIVE." SAID PALESTINIANS DO UNCLASSIFIED

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NOT RECOGNIZE REJECTIONIST FRONT WHICH, IN TURN, DOES NOT REPRESENT PALESTINE. WHILE REPEATING PLO ONLY LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIANS, SHEIKH URGED SADAT TO GO AHEAD AND IGNORE "THOSE CHILDREN WHO ARE LIKE PARROTS REPEATING WHAT THEIR MASTER, THE SOVIET UNION, TELLS THEM TO SAY."

5. PM SALIM. SPEAKING TO MEMBERS CENTER PARTY DEC 13 PM SALIM HIT USSR FOR EFFORTS PARALYZE EGYPT ECONOMICALLY IN ORDER PERPETUATE STATE OF NO WAR, NO PEACE. SAID SADAT'S PEACE INITIATIVE REVEALED VICIOUS PLOTS OF ARAB REJECTIONISTS AND SOVIET UNION. CLAIMED SOVIET UNTRUSTWORTHINESS PROVED BY ITS ABANDONMENT OF SOMALIA AND CONCLUSION OF ALLIANCE WITH ETHIOPIA. CONCLUDED SOVIET GOAL IS TO PIN ARAB AREA "TO ITS CHARIOT ECONOMICALLY, POLITICALLY, CULTURALLY AND SCIENTIFICALLY."

6. SYRIAN PLOT. AKHBAR AND GUMHURIYYA REPORT AUTHORITIES HAVE "CONFIRMED INFORMATION" THAT SYRIANS PLAN ATTACK EGYPTIAN OFFICES IN BEIRUT AND MURDER MEMBERS EMBASSY STAFF. GOE REPORTEDLY HAS ADOPTED ALL POSSIBLE PRECAUTIONS AND OFFICIALLY INFORMED LEBANESE GOVERNMENT.

ACCORDING PRESS, PLOT TO BE CARRIED OUT TODAY, DEC 14,
IN ORDER DISRUPT PEACE CONFERENCE. (COMMENT: ALL EGYPT
AIR FLIGHTS TO BEIRUT AND DAMASCUS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED
INDEFINITELY.) EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Comment:
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TAGS: OVIP, PGOV, EG, XF, (CARTER, JIMMY)
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